

Appln. No. 09/857,534
Amdt. Dated September 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner objected that the application did not contain an Abstract on a separate sheet and a separate sheet of Abstract is now filed.

The Examiner has raised objection to various informalities in claims 5, 7, 10 and 13 – 15. Appropriate correction has been effected.

Editorial correction has also been effected to claims 6, 11 and 12.

The Examiner has raised objection under 35USC 102 arguing that claims 1 – 8 and 10 – 15 are anticipated by Partnership (EP-0305107-A2).

The Examiner has stated that Partnership discloses “reflector means including first and second reflectors spaced on opposing sides of said scanning means for directing radiant energy from opposing sides of said body, and switchable reflector means for directing radiant energy alternately between said scanning means and said first and second reflectors”. The disclosure of Partnership is of a line etched prism 46 driven in a stepwise fashion by a stepping motor 47. The mirror transmits two beams to each side of a light splitter 52 “so that the light is transmitted into two opposing paths toward an upper reflective 53 and a lower reflective 54 which each then transmit the narrow light beam toward the centre of the circular member 5 in which an object being scanned is, in operation, positioned so that the light beams from the upper and lower reflectives converge upon the object” (column 7, lines 24 – 40).

Thus, although the Partnership reference discloses reflectors 53, 54 on opposing sides of a scanning means 46, the prism 52 is fixed and there is no disclosure of a “switchable (emphasis added) reflector means for directing radiant energy alternately (emphasis added) between said

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scanning means and said first and second reflectors”, as required by independent claims 1 and 3. In this respect, the Partnership reference transmits narrow beams to a fixed reflector, i.e. prism 52 which transmits light beams simultaneously to the reflectors 53 and 54. Thus, the present independent claims 1 and 3 have novelty and inventive step over Partnership.

Claims 6 – 15 are appended either directly or indirectly to claim 3 and so these claims similarly have novelty and inventive step over Partnership.

Additionally, the requirements of claim 6 of the first and second reflectors and the switchable reflector being formed by respective mirrors is not disclosed or remotely suggested by the prior art.

The dimensional requirements of Figure 7 are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Minsky (U.S. 5,956,525) discloses an apparatus for measuring a body for clothing manufacture which uses two orthogonal cameras with a grid located behind the person being photographed. The invention is an extremely crude way of determining the profile of a body. The Partnership reference is directed toward a medical environment and there is no suggestion that the scanner of Partnership could be used for automatic fabrication of clothing. It is, therefore, submitted that the combination of Partnership and Minsky is improper.

Additionally, it is to be commented that the measuring arrangement of Minsky requires measuring tapes to be wrapped round a body being measured and such a requirement is not a requirement of Partnership, so it is not conceivable that the teaching of Minsky would be combined with Partnership. The use of the tapes taught by Minsky is not required or suggested by the teaching of the subject invention.

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The prior art of record has been carefully considered by the Applicants, but none of the references teach the essential features of the subject application as claimed.

In the light of the above remarks and the amendments made to the subject application, early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas S. Rupert
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44434

Dated: 9/10, 2003
WILDMAN, HARROLD, ALLEN & DIXON LLP
225 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1229
Telephone: (312) 201-2353
Facsimile: (312) 201-2555

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
Christie A. Amols
9/11/03

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A body scanning equipment including one set of apparatus located to scan a portion of a body, said set of apparatus comprising scanning means, reflector means associated with said scanning means, said reflector means including first and second reflectors spaced on opposing sides of said scanning means for directing radiant energy from opposing sides of said body, and switchable reflector means for directing radiant energy alternately between said scanning means and said first and second reflectors whereby substantially a 180° scan of said body may be made.

2. (Original) An equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein two sets of apparatus is provided.

3. (Previously presented) A body scanning equipment including two sets of apparatus located to scan opposing front and rear portions of a body to be scanned and each set of apparatus comprising scanning means, reflector means associated with each scanning means, each said reflector means including first and second reflectors spaced on opposing sides of said scanning means for directing radiant energy from opposing sides of said body, and switchable reflector means for directing radiant energy alternately between said scanning means and said first and second reflectors, whereby a complete 360° scan of said body may be made.

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4. (Previously presented) An equipment as claimed in claim 3, wherein scanning means comprises a camera having a viewing axis and an illumination means having an illumination axis which is offset from said camera viewing axis.

5. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in claim 3, wherein two pairs of sets of apparatus are provided, each pair being located in a different elevational position with respect to said body so that each pair is able to scan a whole portion of a body and the elevational location of the paris pairs being arranged such that a complete body may be scanned.

6. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first and second ~~reflectors~~ reflectors and said switchable reflector means are each formed by a respective mirror.

7. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in ~~any of~~ claim 3, wherein said sets of apparatus are mounted in a booth, typically ~~approximately~~ approximately 2 meters square and about 2.4 meters high.

8. (Previously presented) An equipment as claimed in claim 3, wherein each scanning means provides an output signal to processor means including means for computing surface data from images received from each opposing side of said body, means for producing aligned data from said surface data, means for producing a signal from said aligned data indicative of the surfaces of said body joined together through 360°, and means for calculating surface measurements derived from said means for producing.

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9. (Previously presented) An equipment as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for calculating is connected to a numerically controlled garment cutting machine which may in turn be connected to an automated garment assembly apparatus.

10. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in claim 4, wherein two pairs of sets of apparatus are provided, each pair being located in a different elevational position with respect to said body so that each pair is able to scan a whole portion of a body and the elevational location of the paris pairs being arranged such that a complete body may be scanned.

11. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in claim 4, wherein said first and second reflectors reflectors and said switchable reflector means are each formed by a respective mirror.

12. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first and second reflectors reflectors and said switchable reflector means are each formed by a respective mirror.

13. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in any of claim 4, wherein said sets of apparatus are mounted in a booth, typically approximately approximately 2 meters square and about 2.4 meters high.

14. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in any of claim 5, wherein said sets of apparatus are mounted in a booth, typically approximately approximately 2 meters square and about 2.4 meters high.

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15. (Currently amended) An equipment as claimed in ~~any of~~ claim 6, wherein said sets of apparatus are mounted in a booth, typically ~~approximately~~ approximately 2 meters square and about 2.4 meters high.